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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Nelson et al.
Filed: Simultaneously Herewith
Serial No.:
For: Mass Spectrometric Immunoassay
Atty. Docket No.: 530-013

Box Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Preliminary Amendment

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-specified application, kindly amend the subject application as follows:

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

As the first paragraph, please insert the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of pending application serial no. 09/024,988
filed on 02/17/98, which was a continuation of original application serial no.
08/449,903, which was filed on 5/23/95, now abandoned.

In the Claims:

Please cancel pending claims 31, 33, 40 and 41.

Not Present

Please include the following new claims:

- 2-126
48. A method for determining whether a specimen contains a certain analyte species, comprising the steps of:
- a. capturing and isolating the certain analyte species from the specimen, said step of capturing and isolating involving the use of an affinity reagent having a specific affinity for the certain analyte species;